

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 16 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview. At the conclusion of the interview, it was agreed that the Applicants were to amend claims 1 and 20 to recite the “first information including data that indicates that the at least one of the second base stations is in proximity to the first base stations.” It was further agreed from the interview that the amendment more definitively recited distinguishable features of the present claims and that the amendment would overcome the cited art. Arguments in favor of patentability are provided below.

Claims 1-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hagting* (WO 97/15160) in view of *Ward* (US Patent 5,974,320). Claims 9 and 11-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Hagting does not disclose “first messages having first information are at least temporarily sent at least from one part of the first [synchronous] base stations, said first information first information including data that indicates that the at least one of the second [asynchronous] base stations is in proximity to the first [synchronous] base stations” as recited in claims 1 and 20. The Examiner has acknowledged this deficiency in the Office Action dated August 25, 2004 (page 3, lines 2-4).

However, *Ward* does not solve the deficiency of *Hagting*, discussed above. Specifically, *Ward* discloses a MAHO system wherein base stations transmit the same neighborhood list to a mobile switching center (MSC), which specify the measurement channels being utilized within a neighborhood zone (col. 4, lines 16-20). As was stated previously, the neighborhood list disclosed in *Ward* does not indicate whether a “first base stations are surrounded by at least one of the second base stations.” Instead, the neighborhood list **transmits the measurement channels, which are shared and reused by more than one base station**, and are dependent on

the mobile terminal used (see col. 4, lines 24-40; col. 5, lines 9-24; col. 6, lines 37-46). Thus, the system in *Ward* will not know to distinguish among base stations like that claimed in the present application. The passages cited by the Examiner (col. 6, lines 2-36 and col. 8, lines 28-50) do not state anything to the contrary. In fact, col. 8, lines 28-50 is completely silent regarding the use of synchronous and asynchronous base stations, and only instructs “mobile stations traveling within each of said plurality of first base stations to measure said indicated measurement channels for mobile service.” This clearly does not teach the claimed invention.

Secondly, claim 1 recites the first base stations as being synchronous, and the second bases stations as being asynchronous (illustrated above in brackets for claim 1). *Ward* is silent regarding the base stations communicating whether synchronous base stations are proximate asynchronous bases stations.

Furthermore, the teaching in *Hagting* makes it improper to combine with the teaching in *Ward* to arrive at the obviousness conclusion stated by the Examiner. While the Examiner properly acknowledged that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, there also must be a *teaching, suggestion or motivation* to do so (see MPEP 2141). In determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. §103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (MPEP 2141.02). And the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination (MPEP 2143.01).

Notwithstanding the fact that *Ward* did not teach the aforementioned limitation, there is no reason to modify the teaching in *Hagting* in this regard, since *Hagting* teaches that the radio communication unit establishes a “global air usage map” that includes synchronously and asynchronously operating radio links (page 6, lines 20-24). The system scans the radio environment to obtain synchronous and asynchronous radio access links, maintains a list of these links and evaluates the list on the basis of predetermined radio link criteria to determine whether handover or roaming has to be initiated (page 6, lines 6-18). Thus, since *Hagting* already maintains a global list of stations, there is no teaching, motivation or suggestion (other than to

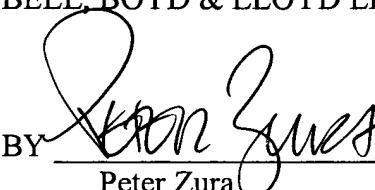
improperly glean knowledge from the Applicants' disclosure) to modify the reference to transmit "first messages having first information are at least temporarily sent at least from one part of the first base stations, said first information first information including data that indicates that the at least one of the second base stations is in proximity to the first base stations."

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 is improper and should be withdrawn. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

A petition for a one-month extension of time has been submitted with this response, along with a check in the amount of \$120. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0112710-0506) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Peter Zura
Reg. No. 48,196
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4208

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